



1

**KINGSBRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



REPORT
on the
Health of the Area
for the Year 1966

Presented by
The Medical Officer of Health and
Public Health Inspector

Kingsbridge Urban District Council

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

R. B. WALKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

(Resigned October 1966)

JOHN WILDMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Lond.)

(Appointed Acting Medical Officer 1 Nov 1966)

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Part time)

W. H. COWPER, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (until 30-3-66)

MARY E. BUDDING, M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc., D.P.H.

(appointed 1-4-66)

Local Office : Quay House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.

Telephone : Kingsbridge 2122/2196

Central Office (M.O.H.): Area No. 5, South West Devon,

Public Health Department,

Council Offices,

Plympton, Plymouth, Devon.

Telephone : Plymouth 36644

Clerk to the Medical Officer : Miss G. Prowse.

Tel. Plymouth 36644.

ENGINEER, SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

L. J. HILL, C.Eng., A.M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H.

Quay House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.

Telephone : Kingsbridge 2122/2196

Clerk to Surveyor and P.H.I. : Mrs. J. Pearce

Public Health matters are dealt with by the Public Health
and Highways Committee and the Planning, Clearance and
Redevelopment Committee.

KINGSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report on the Health of the District for the Year 1966

P R E F A C E

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I present herewith the Annual Report on the health of the district during 1966, drawn up along the lines of Ministry of Health Circular 1/67 dated January 1967. Included in the Report is the Report of your Public Health Inspector.

Dr. R. B. Walker, who had been your Medical Officer of Health since 1956, resigned his appointment in October and emigrated to Canada. Prior to that, in April 1966, Dr. Walker's M.O.H. area was enlarged and Dr. Mary E. Budding was appointed part-time Deputy Medical Officer. Dr. Budding is also Medical Officer of Health to Okehampton Borough and Rural District and is a senior Medical Officer on the staff of the Devon County Council at Tavistock. In November 1966 your present Medical Officer of Health was appointed as Acting M.O.H. until the end of the year.

POPULATION, BIRTHS AND DEATHS

The Registrar General estimated that the population increased by 30 persons to a total of 3,320 persons. Deaths exceeded births by 14 persons and the Standardised Birth Rate at 11.63 per 1,000 population is below the National Average of 17.7 per 1,000 population. The Standardised Death Rate at 12.60 per 1,000 population is slightly above the National Average of 11.7 per 1,000 population.

These two factors may be an indication of the growing age of the population. As is common throughout the country, most

of the deaths were due to diseases of the heart and circulation, with cancer being the second commonest cause of death.

GENERAL HEALTH

No infectious diseases were notified and as far as the statistics reveal the district maintained good health during the year. The Public Health Inspector has reported fully on the environmental health of the district in the subsequent pages of this Report (Section B).

No action was necessary under the National Assistance Acts of 1948 and 1951 for the removal of persons in need of care and attention and no persons were buried in accordance with Section 50 of the 1948 Act.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Members of the Council as well as my colleagues for the very kind way in which I have been welcomed to the staff.

JOHN WILDMAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

October 1967.

SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1966

Table 1

Figures for 1965 are shown in brackets

POPULATION :

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Kingsbridge Urban District 3,320 (3,290)

Natural increase or decrease	...	...	...	...	- 14
Migration in or out	...	...	...	...	+ 44
Total increase or decrease	...	...	...	...	+ 30
Population at 1961 Census	...	...	...	...	3,287

GENERAL STATISTICS :

Area of Kingsbridge Urban District in Acres

1,147½

Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books

1,093 (1,102)

Number of Houses per acre ...	...	...	...	0.953
Number of Persons per acre ...	...	...	...	2.894
Number of Persons per house ...	...	...	...	3.038
Dwellings owned by the Council ...	...	...	...	272

Rateable Value of District at 1st April

£129,256 (£122,219)

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate

£524/18/0 (£492/1/7)

Table 2

Figures for 1965 are shown in brackets

BIRTHS :

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population ... 11.63

Area Comparability Factor for Births ... 1.17

Number of Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Total	17	16	33
Legitimate	17	15	32
Illegitimate	0	1	1
Number of Still Births	0	0	0

DEATHS :

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population ... 12.60

Area Comparability Factor for Deaths ... 0.89

Number of Deaths

	Males	Females	Total
All Ages—Total	25	22	47
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	0	0	0
Number under 4 weeks of age	0	0	0
Number under 1 week of age	0	0	0
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births			0.00

Comparisons with Rates for England and Wales

Birth Rate 17.7 (18.1) **Death Rate** 11.7 (11.5)

Infantile Mortality Rate 19.0 (19.0)

(Infants under 1 year of age)

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES : Cases Notified During 1966

No notifications were received during the year

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1966

Line No.		M.	F.	Total
	ALL CAUSES	25	22	47
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	0	0	0
2	Tuberculosis, Other	0	0	0
3	Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
4	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6	Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8	Measles	0	0	0
9	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	0	0	0
10	Malignant Neoplasms, Stomach	1	0	1
11	Malignant Neoplasms, Lungs, Bronchus	2	0	2
12	Malignant Neoplasms, Breast	0	0	0
13	Malignant Neoplasms, Uterus	—	0	0
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	2	7	9
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	0	0	0
16	Diabetes	1	0	1
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	3	3	6
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	8	1	9
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	0	0	0
20	Other Heart Diseases	4	4	8
21	Other Circulatory Disease	2	4	6
22	Influenza	1	1	2
23	Pneumonia	0	0	0
24	Bronchitis	0	0	0
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	0	1	1
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	0	0	0
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	0	0	0
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	0	0
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	0	—	0
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	0	0
31	Congenital Malformations	0	0	0
32	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	0	1	1
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	0	1
34	All other Accidents	0	0	0
35	Suicide	0	0	0
36	Homicide and Operations of War	0	0	0

SECTION B

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

WATER SUPPLY. I have no particular comment to make this year on the water supply to the town.

It was maintained adequate in quantity and very satisfactory in quality.

I understand that the Water Board has been advised by its experts that, based on population trends and consumption figures, it will be necessary for the Board to supply several million gallons of water per day extra to the present output.

The search for the means to make this extra provision available is being actively pursued and I have no doubts about the future.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. During 1966 no further additions of note were made to the sewerage system.

The Engineer sought for and obtained the Council's sanction to engage consultants to prepare the designs for a new disposal works.

I understand that, despite some differences of view between the Council's officers and consultants and officers of the Devon River Authority, the work was proceeding, with the hope and intention of having a disposal works in operation within four years.

HOUSING. The commencement of the Council's eleventh housing scheme was, I am advised, bedevilled by the troubles of the original contractor who, after being interviewed by a sub-committee of the Council, eventually declined to sign the contract and was allowed to withdraw his tender.

The next lowest tenderer was approached and, after negotiating a slightly higher figure, undertook the work required.

At the end of the year the Engineer and Surveyor advises me that he was well satisfied with the progress made, and consequently I look forward to the completion of the clearance programme next year.

FOOD. The food situation for the town remained quite satisfactory and a very close liaison is maintained with the County Council's district sampling officer.

The numbers of types of food premises in the area are as follows :—

Greengrocer 5 ; Grocer 13 ; Butcher 5 ; Restaurants 5 ; Wet Fish Shops 2 ; Fried Fish Shops 2 ; Bakers 5 (only 2 actually bake).

In addition to the above, one person maintains premises for the reception, cleaning and preparation for sale of wet fish and thereafter sells from a properly constructed vehicle.

In June, 1966, the Public Health Inspector observed that a quantity of strawberries, offered for sale at a cafe in Fore Street, were lying, unprotected, on the footpath being propped up against the front wall of the premises. He warned the trader against this practice and required it to cease. It did not.

A week later he saw that the same practice was again going on and so, in company with the Inspector's secretary, Dr. Walker visited the premises and recorded what he saw.

The trader was subsequently summoned for failing to comply with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, was convicted on three counts and fined heavily by the magistrates.

Referring to the brief note in the Report for 1965, conditions of use of the slaughterhouse gradually got worse, until Mr. Hill felt it necessary to make extra inspections and enquiries.

As a result it became known that large numbers of animals had been slaughtered over several weekends and the carcasses removed for export to London and elsewhere.

The butcher responsible was charged before the magistrates on eight counts of slaughtering without notification and removing before inspection. He was convicted and fined on each count, a total of £210.

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1966, is as follows :—

Manufacture of Ice Cream	1
Storage of Ice Cream for sale	27
Preparation or manufacture of Sausages, etc.	7
Number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1954	3

The number of inspections of food premises in the year was 26. This number does not include re-visits where found necessary. The general standard of food premises in the town remains good.

The Method of Disposal of Condemned Food : In the rare cases where large amounts are required to be disposed of, this is done through a recognised firm specialising in the preparation of fertilisers, etc. In other cases, goods are removed by the refuse collection gang and buried at the disposal site.

APPENDIX

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part :

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	204	—	5	1162	5	—
Number inspected	202	—	5	1154	5	—
All disease except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis						
Whole carcases condemned	1		1	1		
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	49			70		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease, etc.	24.26%			6.06%		
Tuberculosis only :			Nil			
Cysticercosis			Nil			

No slaughtering for export took place after the prosecution and the figures above show this when compared to previous years.

I feel it necessary to comment on the increased percentage of animals suffering from some condition or other necessitating condemnation of some part or organ. This is entirely due to the prevalence of the liver fluke and other parasitic worms in the general area.

NUISANCES, Etc.

Number of complaints received :

(a) alleging nuisances	...	...	...	...	2
(b) alleging housing defects	...	...	...	...	173
(c) other complaints	...	...	...	...	9
Nuisances proved	...	...	...	...	2
Minor housing repairs dealt with	...	...	...	...	170
Other complaints remedied	...	...	...	...	4
Informal letters sent	...	...	...	...	1
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	0
Total number of inspections in connection with erection of new houses and conversions	...	...	...	...	123
Total number of inspections in connection with Public Health	...	...	...	...	111

SECTION C

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	No. in Register	Inspect'ns	Number of Written Notices	Occup'rs Prosec'd
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	47	5	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out - workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	52	7	—	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found : Nil.

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

There are no outworkers.

